Ripuarian language

Ripuarian (/ˌrɪpjuˈɛəriən/; also *Ripuarian Franconian*; German: *Ripuarisch, ripuarische Mundart, ripuarischer Dialekt, ripuarisch-fränkische Mundart, Ribuarisch*) is a German dialect group, part of the West Central German language group. Together with the Moselle Franconian which includes the Luxembourgish language, Ripuarian belongs to the larger Central Franconian dialect family and also to the Rhinelandic linguistic continuum with the Low Franconian languages.

It is spoken in the Rhineland south of the Benrath line — from northwest of Düsseldorf and Cologne to Aachen in the west and to Waldbröl in the east.

The language area also comprises the north of the German-speaking Community of Belgium as well as the southern edge of the Limburg province of the Netherlands, especially Kerkrade (*Kirchroa*). The name derives from the Ripuarian Franks (*Rheinfranken*), who settled in the area from the 4th century onward.

The most well known Ripuarian language is *Kölsch*, the local dialect of Cologne. Dialects belonging to the Ripuarian group almost always call themselves *Platt* like *Öcher Platt* (of Aachen) or *Eischwiele Platt* (of Eschweiler), *Kirchröadsj Platt* (of Kerkrade), *Bocheser Platt* (of Bocholtz) or *Bönnsch Platt* (of Bonn). Most of the more than one hundred Ripuarian dialects are bound to one specific village or municipality. Usually there are small distinctive differences between neighbouring dialects (which are, however, easily noticeable to locals), and increasingly bigger differences between the more distant dialects. These are described by a set of isoglosses called the Rhenish fan in linguistics. The way people talk, even if they are not using Ripuarian, often allows them to be traced precisely to a village or city quarter where they learned to speak.

Contents

Ripuarian	
Native to	Germany, Belgium, Netherlands
Region	North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Liège, Limburg
Native speakers	≈ 900,000

Language family	Indo-European
	
	• Germanic
	  • West Germanic
	    • High German
	      • Central German
	        • West Central German
	          • Central Franconian
	            • **Ripuarian**

Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (`mis`) Individual code: `ksh` – Kölsch
Glottolog	ripu1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ripu1236)[1]

Area where Ripuarian is spoken. Green = sparsely populated forest.

Number of speakers

About a million people speak a variation of Ripuarian dialect, which constitutes about one quarter of the inhabitants of the area. Penetration of Ripuarian in everyday communication varies considerably, as does the percentage of Ripuarian speakers from one place to another. In some places there may only be a few elderly speakers left, while elsewhere Ripuarian usage is common in everyday life. Both in the genuine Ripuarian area and far around it, the number of people passively understanding Ripuarian to some extent exceeds the number of active speakers by far. Estimates assume some ten, and up to twenty million speakers.

Central German language area after 1945 and the expulsion of the Germans from the east. 1 = Ripuarian.

Geographic significance

Speakers are centred on the German city of Köln (Cologne). The language's distribution starts from the important geographic transition into the flat-lands coming down from the Middle Rhine. The Ripuarian varieties are related to the Moselle Franconian languages spoken in the southern Rhineland (Rhineland-Palatinate and Saarland) in Germany, to the Luxembourgish language in Luxembourg, to the Low Franconian Limburgish language in the Dutch province of Limburg, and to Low Dietsch in the province of Liège, Belgium. Most of the historic roots of Ripuarian languages are in Middle High German, but there were other influences too, such as Latin, Low German, Dutch, French and Southern Meuse-Rhenish (Limburgish). Several elements of grammar are unique to Ripuarian and do not exist in the other languages of Germany.

The French Community of Belgium and the Netherlands officially recognise some Ripuarian dialects as minority languages, and the European Union likewise follows.

Grammar

Numerals

The transcription from Münch[2] is listed first, followed with the commonplace spelling in German orthography. In Münch's orthography, the grave accent (à) and macron (ā) represent, respectively, accent 1 and 2 in the Franconian pitch accent. These describe a general Ripuarian dialect; Kölsch specifically has several unique sound changes from the rest of Ripuarian,[2] and certain words sound different from this table.

	Cardinals	Ordinals
1	ēn "een"	dę ìəštə "dä Ierschte"
2	tswęī "zwäi"	dę tswę̀itə "dä Zwäite"
3	dreī "drei"	dę drę̀itə "dä Dräite"
4	fiəɹ "vier"	dę fiətə "dä Vierte"
5	fønəf "fönf"	dę fønəftə "dä Fönfte"
6	zęks "sechs"	dę zękstə "dä Sechste"
7	zevə "sevve"	dę zevəntə "dä Sevvente"
8	āx "aach"	dę āxtə "dä Aachte"
9	nøỳ "nöng"	dę nøĳtə "dä Nöngte"
10	tsèn "zehn"	dę tsèntə "dä Zehnte"
11	eləf "elf"	dę eləftə "dä Elfte"
12	tsweləf "zwelf"	dę tsweləftə "dä Zwelfte"
13	drøksēn "dröcksehn"	dę drøksēntə "dä Dröcksehnte"
14	fiətsēn "vierzehn"	dę fiətsēntə "dä Vierzehnte"
15	fuftsēn "fuffzehn"	dę fuftsēntə "dä Fuffzehnte"
16	zęksēn "sechsehn"	dę zęksēntə "dä Sechsehnte"
17	zevətsēn "sevvezehn"	dę zevetsēntə "dä Sevvezehnte"
18	āxtsēn "aachzehn"	dę āxtsēntə "dä Aachzehnte"
19	nøĳsēn "nöngzehn"	dę nøĳtsēntə "dä Nöngzehnte"
20	tswantsiχ "zwanzich"	dę tswantsiχstə "dä Zwanzichste"
21	enəntswantsiχ "eenunzwanzich"	
22	tswęiəntswantsiχ "zwäiunzwanzich"	
23	dreiəntswantsiχ "dreiunzwanzich"	
24	fiəɹentswantsiχ "vierunzwanzich"	
25	fønəvəntswantsiχ "fönfunzwanzich"	
26	zękzəntswantsiχ "sechsunzwanzich"	
27	zevənəntswantsiχ "sevvenunzwanzich"	
28	āxəntswantsiχ "aachunzwanzich	
29	nøŋəntswantsiχ "nöngunzwanzich"	
30	dresiχ "dressich"	dę dresiχstə "dä Dressichste"
40	fiətsiχ "vierzich"	dę fiətsiχstə "dä Vierzichste"
50	fuftsiχ "fuffzich"	dę fuftsiχstə "dä Fuffzichste"
60	zęksiχ "sechsich"	dę zęksiχstə "dä Sechsichste"

70	zevəntsiχ "sevvenzich"	dę zevətsiχstə "dä Sevvezichste"
80	āxtsiχ "aachzich"	dę āxtsiχstə "dä Aachzichste"
90	nøŋ̄siχ "nöngzich"	dę nøŋ̄tsiχstə "dä Nöngzichste"
100	hondə˞t "hondert"	dę hondə˞tstə "dä Hondertste"
200	tsweīhondə˞t "zwäihondert"	
1000	dùzənt "Duusend"	dę dùzəntstə "dä Duusendste

Pronouns

Ripuarian (excluding City-Colognian) emphasised personal pronouns:[2]

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person m. / f. / n.			reflexive pronoun (of the 3rd person)
Singular						
Nom.	iχ "ich"	du "du"	hę̄ "hä"	zeī "sei"	ət "et"	
Gen.	–	–	–	–	–	
Dat.	mī˞ "mir"	dī˞ "mir"	em̀ "em"	ì˞ "ihr"	em̀ "em"	ziχ "sich"
Acc.	miχ "mich"	diχ "dich"	en "en"	zeī "sei"	ət "et"	ziχ "sich"
Plural						
Nom.	mī˞ "mir"	ī˞ "ihr"	zē "se"			
Gen.	–	–	–			
Dat.	os "oss"	yχ "üch"	eǹə "enne"			ziχ "sich"
Acc.	os "oss"	yχ "üch"	zē "se"			ziχ "sich"

See also

- Eifelplatt
- Lex Ripuaria
- Low Dietsch
- Rheinische Dokumenta
- Rhinelandic regiolect
- Ripuarian Franconia
- Southern Meuse-Rhenish

References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ripuarian" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ripu1236). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. *Grammatik der ripuarisch-fränkischen Mundart von Ferdinand Münch.* Bonn, 1904, p. 8ff. & p. 159f.

Some symbols with their IPA equivalent are:

- ẹ - [ɛ]
- š̠ - [ʃ]
- ꝛ̠ - [ʁ]
- x̱ - [ç]
- x̲ - [x]

This page was last edited on 28 June 2020, at 21:50 (UTC).